



# NEW HOLLAND ISLAND INTERNATIONAL DEBUT FILM FESTIVAL



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## PRESS RELEASE NEW HOLLAND INTERNATIONAL DEBUT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS 2020 DATES

The first New Holland International Debut Film Festival will take place in St. Petersburg from July 14 to 19, 2020. The festival was established in 2019 and marked its launch with an extensive preview programme that drew over 50,000 visitors to New Holland Island. In 2020, the festival will expand beyond the Island and will occupy several other venues in the city.

New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival is a platform for daring cinema that aims to open new perspectives and challenge the established formats of contemporary filmmaking. The festival's mission is to support unique cinematic visions and incorporate new names into the world context. The president of the New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival is Alexander Rodnyansky, one of the most prominent producers of auteur cinema in Russia, a member of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The programme director is Alexey Artamonov, film critic and curator of film programmes, who has collaborated with many film festivals and publications. The short film programme is selected by Andrey Kartashov, film critic, author of Russian and foreign cinema publications, winner of the Mikhail Levitin Prize for film critics of Russia (2015).

The competition programme entries of the festival will be judged by an international jury which will include distinguished members from the industry of contemporary auteur cinema. The programme will consist of an international competition for both feature and short films. Applications for participation in the competition programme will continue to be accepted until **April 10**.

The first and second feature films are accepted in the international competition for feature films lasting more than 45 minutes, shot in 2019 and 2020. Documentary, experimental and fiction films with a duration of up to 45 minutes, made in 2019 and 2020 by directors who have not made their feature debuts, are accepted in the international programme for short films. You can find out more information and submit an application on [nhifilmfest.com](http://nhifilmfest.com) website. The festival programme will be announced in June.

Besides all the preparations for the main events of the year, the New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival has announced the beginning of a new season of its educational programme. Its goal is to introduce the audience to the masters of European film schools and various teaching methods, films of novice filmmakers and current trends in modern cinema. All lectures and film screenings that are part of the educational programme of New Holland Island International Debut Film Festival can be attended for free.

The new season of the educational programme will open on **February 8** at 6 pm with an event with the German director **Philip Gröning**, professor of the Cologne International Film School, winner of the Special Jury Prize of the Venice Film Festival 2013. This will be the first screening of his early film *Stachoviak!* in Russia. The event will take place in the Pavilion of New Holland Island. Admission is free, registration is required on the website.

[www.nhifilmfest.com](http://www.nhifilmfest.com)

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### NEW HOLLAND: CULTURAL URBANIZATION

In 2010, *New Holland Development*, an affiliate of Roman Abramovich's company *Millhouse, LLC*, won the tender for the restoration and renovation of New Holland Island, with the goal of creating a mixed-use complex that will serve as one of the epicenters of cultural life not only for St Petersburg, but for Russia as a whole. To help determine the concept and creative direction of the island's development, *Millhouse* turned to the *Iris Foundation*, a non-commercial initiative for the support and advancement of contemporary culture and art, launched by Daria Zhukova. This collaboration resulted in *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization*, a fresh approach to the restructuring and modernization of the territory, a monument of cultural and national historical significance. Following the success of the seasonal programs, the project investors decided not to proceed with the original plan to clear the territory to construct a new building. Instead, they chose to organize a full-fledged city park, complete with a modern and convenient infrastructure, which each and every person could find his or her place. The island continues to host cultural programs as well as grand-scale civic initiatives. Future plans for the development of the territory include not only commercial enterprises, but also cultural and educational institutions, research laboratories, and exhibition spaces, whose programming will be overseen by emerging specialists. *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization* helps recruit a team of architects, designers, and urban planners, as well as provide the cultural content for the island's programming and participate in the selection of partners and operators. In August 2016, the first phase of the project came to completion, with the launch of New Holland's park zone, and the island begin to operate all year long. As of now, three historical buildings have been restored: the Foundry, the Commandant's House and the *Bottle House*. *House 12*, which is located on the Kryukov Canal embankment, is scheduled to open in 2020.